


"Stand beside her and guide
her through the night
with the light from above"

www.graceinaction.org
July 2009

GRACE IN Action



LIVING CATHOLIC STEWARDSHIP™

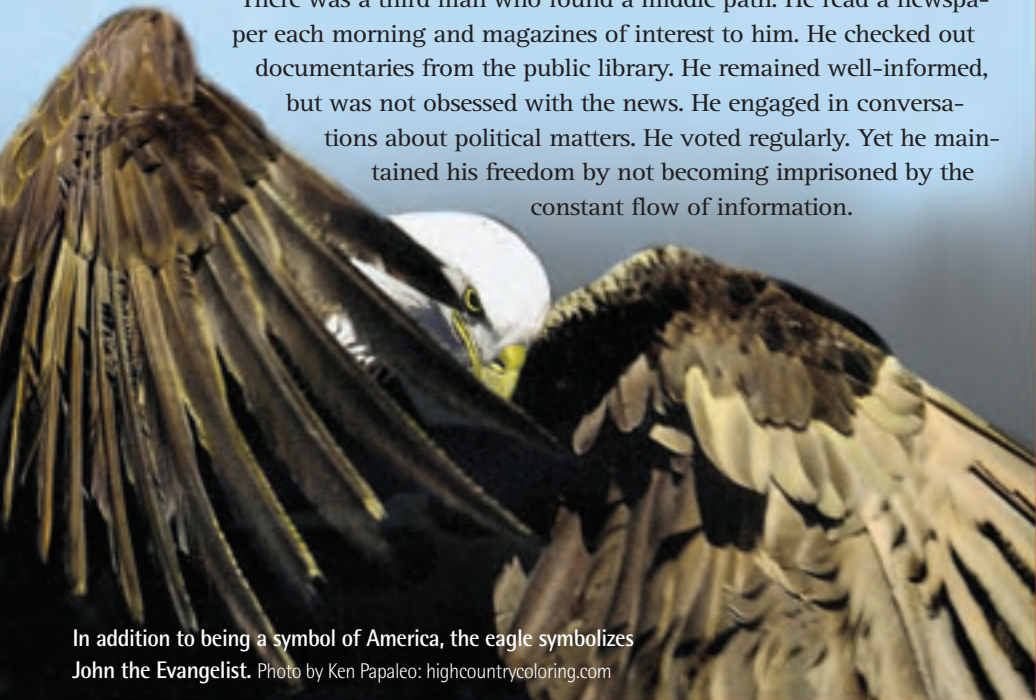
new **parable**

Find media's middle path

There was a man who was a news junkie. He listened each day to extremists shouting over one another on talk radio. He thumbed through news magazines while he ate his meals. And he sat in front of the television every chance he had, surfing the news channels. At work, he checked news on the Internet. This man felt overwhelmed by every fluctuation in the stock market. He could not sleep at night for fear of crime. He refused to travel internationally, afraid of terrorists. And the more news the man took in, the less he was able to live his life.

There was another man who shunned all news. He had no trust for any media. Disturbing news left him feeling helpless and fearful, so he preferred to remain ignorant of the events in the world, the nation, his hometown. He subscribed to no newspapers or magazines. He avoided the Internet. He held no opinions about war or peace, the economy, the culture or even sports. Since he knew little about what was going on in his community, he did not exercise his right to vote. This man did his best to live in a vacuum, but his lack of knowledge limited not only his conversations, but also his life.

There was a third man who found a middle path. He read a newspaper each morning and magazines of interest to him. He checked out documentaries from the public library. He remained well-informed, but was not obsessed with the news. He engaged in conversations about political matters. He voted regularly. Yet he maintained his freedom by not becoming imprisoned by the constant flow of information.



In addition to being a symbol of America, the eagle symbolizes John the Evangelist. Photo by Ken Papaleo: highcountrycoloring.com



celebrate
July

- 3 St. Thomas
- 11 St. Benedict
- 14 Blessed Kateri Tekakwitha
- 22 St. Mary Magdalene
- 25 St. James

The daisy represents the Incarnation, the innocence of the Christ Child.

green**scene**

"This land is your land"

Sept. 26, 2009, is the 16th annual National Public Lands Day. Thousands of volunteers across the country pitch in every year to improve our public lands. Lending a hand need not cost an arm and a leg: If you're short on cash, contribute your time and energy. Last year, 120,000 volunteers in more than 1,800 locations in every state picked up trash, removed invasive plants, built trails and planted more than 1.6 million trees. This annual event educates Americans about critical environmental and natural resource issues, builds partnerships between the public sector and the local community, and improves public lands for outdoor recreation. Log on to www.publiclandsday.org to learn more about how to get involved this year.

"We defend and we build a way of life not for Americans alone, but for all mankind."

— Franklin D. Roosevelt

Inaugural inspiration

The Church does not agree with President Barack Obama on every issue – most notably abortion and embryonic stem-cell research – yet this month, we honor our first African-American chief executive by providing this excerpt from his inaugural address. Our prayer is that he will come to recognize God's promise includes the unborn who are the future generation we await.



Photo by James Baca

“We remain a young nation, but in the words of Scripture, the time has come to set aside childish things. ★★★ The time has come to reaffirm our enduring spirit; to choose our better history; to carry forward that precious gift, that noble idea, passed on from generation to generation: ★★★ the God-given promise that all are equal, all are free, and all deserve a chance to pursue their full measure of happiness.... ★★★ For as much as government can do and must do, it is ultimately the faith and determination of the American people upon which this nation relies.... ★★★

This is the source of our confidence – the knowledge that God calls on us to shape an uncertain destiny.... ★★★ Let it be said by our children's children that when we were tested we refused to let this journey end, that we did not turn back, nor did we falter; ★★★ and with eyes fixed on the horizon and God's grace upon us, we carried forth that great gift of freedom and delivered it safely to future generations....”

– President Barack Obama

Log on to www.graceinaction.org to read the beautiful benediction delivered at the inauguration by Rev. Joseph Lowery, an African-American civil-rights leader. Pray for our new president!

the way we pray

America's Catholic Church celebrates jubilee

The Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate

Conception in Washington, D.C., is the largest church in the United States. Even if you can't make a pilgrimage there during this golden jubilee year of its dedication, its website allows you to have prayer intentions remembered there. To request prayers, simply key in your name and e-mail address. All



prayer requests are kept confidential, placed in special secure prayer boxes in the crypt church near the altar, and are included in all the shrine's daily Masses and devotions. To light a votive candle, a donation is requested; you may pay online by credit card or PayPal. Log on to www.graceinaction.org for a link to the shrine's website.



Illustration by Quincy Benton

kids corner Kids Celebrate Soldiers

Three young girls from Kansas City, Mo., had a great idea to support our troops: They created a project called Kids Celebrate Soldiers. You can send handmade cards and letters to let homesick soldiers know that you're thinking of them. Many U.S. soldiers are stationed in other countries and would be happy to hear from you. Take the opportunity to tell a soldier how much you appreciate what they're doing for our country through their service.

Please mail your cards and letters to:
Kids Celebrate Soldiers
6324 N. Chatham Ave. #1000
Kansas City, MO 64151

★ Log on to
www.graceinaction.org
for a link
with more
information
on this effort.

Log on to
www.graceinaction.org
for a bonus article this
month: "SHOESTRING
SUMMER: 16 suggestions
for free (or almost free) fun."

Our Sunday Visitor



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